

Application Serial No.: 09/780,812
Amendment dated: 06/12/2004

Reply to Office action of: 03/29/2004
Attorney Docket No.: ARC920000114US1

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing an on-line virtual shopping cart which contains information about an item offered by a host merchant, comprising:

a shopping cart manager that creates [[and manages]] the virtual shopping cart and that detaches the virtual shopping cart prior to, or upon a shopper leaving a site of the host merchant to a different merchant's site;

an extract and verify module that performs a comparison between a host merchant's offer for the item and [[a rival merchant's]] an offer from the different merchant's site; [[and]]

a counter offer module that selectively requests a counter offer from the host merchant relative to the item;

a validation module that automatically prepares a counter offer relative to an underbid offer from the different merchant's site; [[which, when applicable, dynamically changes the item information in the virtual shopping cart, to reflect a change in the host merchant's offer based on the comparison by the extract and verify module]] and

the shopping cart manager automatically and selectively updates the item information in the virtual shopping cart to reflect the host merchant's counter offer, so that when the shopper returns to the host merchant's site for checkout, the shopper acquires the item at the host merchant's counter offer.